Take some time for your own self, learn Islam!!

Islam
A Gift For You

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Introduction

Man is running behind this vanishing world. His lust for money, fame and other temporary gains seems to have no end. A billionaire wants more money, an actor desires more fame, a politician wants more power and a man runs behind what not, which clearly indicates his unsatisfying hunger for these temporal things. Man was never satisfied by obtaining these nor will he ever be. There is only one source which brings true peace and satisfaction; but sadly man is ignoring it and hence has chosen to live a desperate life.

In the mid of this dog race suddenly the time comes when death overtakes him unaware and he leaves all that he possessed, for others. On his deathbed he will realize that all those things for which he spent his whole life for were not worth even a rupee, for they can't reduce his sufferings or delay his death even for a second! At that time he will realize the reality of his existence and on what he should have focussed in his life. But what's the use of regret at that moment when your time has expired and the reality becomes evident to you.

In this rush of life if at all a person thinks on question like 'Who am I?', 'Where am I going?' and 'Where is the answer to my problems?' one does never even think of Islam for answer to these questions as media has presented a distorted image of Islam. 'Islam' means to totally submit to the command of your Creator. In obeying and worshipping your creator lies true peace. Islam is solution, it is peace, don't ignore it. Will you also commit the same mistake of delaying to think till death overtakes you? **Take some time for your own self, learn Islam!**

It is not possible to share everything about Islam in few pages. This book is just the first step to help you start learning about your Creator, Allah(God) and this beautiful way of life, Islam.

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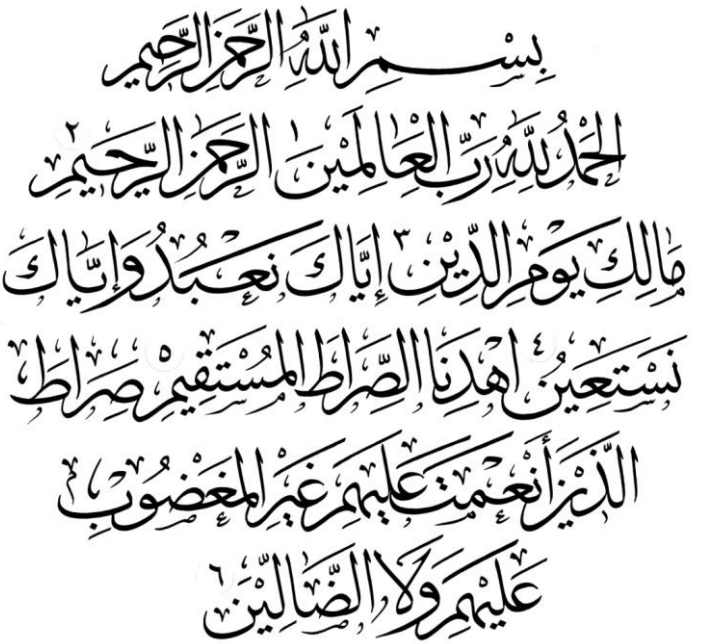
Surah Fatiha(The opening chapter of Quran- Prayer for true guidance)

Quran is the speech of Allah(God) and hence each verse of the Quran is very powerful and meaningful. Therefore the Quranic verses must be read with full attention and at least 2-3 times for better understanding. This **note** should be kept in mind while reading the whole book. We begin with the first chapter of the Quran:

Chapter 1 of Quran

Surah al-Fatiha(Fatiha means the Opening. It is the Prayer for Guidance)



"A'uzhu billahi mi nash Shaytaanir - rajeem
Bis millahir-Rahmanir –Raheem.
Al hamdu lillahi Rabbil-'alameen.
Ar-Rahmanir - Raheem.
Maliki yaw mid-deen.
Iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaka nas ta'een.
Ihdinas – siratal – mus taqeem.
Siratal-lazheena an'amta 'alay him ghay ril-magh doobi'alay him walad- dalleen."
Ameen.

In the name of Allah(God), the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds –
The Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful,
Sovereign of the Day of Recompense.
It is You we worship and You we ask for help.
Guide us to the straight path –
The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favour, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.

What is religion?

Today religion has become something which has to do with a person's private life. It has been reduced to some rituals, beliefs and practices. Religion has become a cause of sorrow and grief for many due to their exploitative nature and corruption. Today religion means a set of rules and regulations which are rigid, full of superstitions, contradictions and an unquestionable authority. But this is not how a true religion should be.

'Religion' in dictionary form means 'the belief in and worship of a supernatural controlling power' or 'a particular system of faith and

worship'. For most people 'religion' is a way of connection between them and God. Religion is a natural requirement and need of humans.

Can religion be questioned or is to be accepted blindly? Should religion be studied?

Over the centuries the priestly class[1] has developed a mind-set among people that matters of religion should not be questioned and must be accepted the way they are given. This class promoted such tendency so that the common people may follow them blindly and not be in a position to question any of their evil practices or illogical teachings. In the name of 'faith(*aastha*)', 'religion(*dharm*)', 'irreligious(*adharmi*)', 'unbeliever(*nastik*)' etc. they introduced fear in general people, who in turn pass this fear to their children. This concept made people rigid in matters of religion to the extent that even the thought of questioning makes them feel like a sinner.

We observe that when a student opts for any course, he/she see its future prospects, consults various experts, friends, relatives etc. and after long struggle of pros and cons he finally takes a decision. Similar is the case when a person is starting a business or a person is going to marry or a person thinking to migrate etc. And why do the student or the person starting business or the youth who is marrying is so much concerned before taking these decisions? You know why? Because that concerns **his life**! In any major issue of life we make an informed choice. When you think so much in taking decision about marriage and even after that the marriage may not last for few months, you think so much about your education/job and after few years you may totally abandon it. But when the question is about religion, which is related to your identity, which is attached to you, from your birth to your whole life, your death and matter does not end here, even to your after life and to the way that leads to Paradise or Hell, to your relation with God and surroundings etc. and YOU, yes you my dear haven't even bothered to question it!!! **Why?**

[1] That is the *pandit* class or religious authorities

Leave aside these matters, even in matters as simple and common as purchasing a cell phone(mobile) or bike or car we discuss so much with those who have some expertise, we collect information from internet, brochures or newspapers and then finally when our research comes to a conclusion then only we purchase it. **Then why do we show a deaf and dumb attitude when it comes to religion?** Is the purchase of a mobile phone more important than God, your life and what you are living for?

The Quran also asks you the same at various places "*afa laa taa qi loon"* which means "Will you not reason? Don't you use wisdom? Don't you understand?"

In every situation we think and act intelligently. But when the topic is RELIGION, the same intelligent & prudential man blindly follows what he receives from his parents. Why do we blindly follow the religion of our parents, who in turn are blindly following what they received from their parents? When the matter is of God we can't accept anyone blindly, not even our parents, for this has concern with you and your existence, to whom you need to submit and what to follow. God is not only your creator but even the creator of your forefathers. Our connection with our Creator existed before we were born in this world and will continue even after our death. When such a huge matter is at stake, can we sit idle and believe in someone else's word especially when the other person is also a human being like us?

If God had wished that we should not question anything then why would He had given us intellect? Then He would have created us like other animals, to follow blindly what they are asked to do. Allah(God) has gifted us with intellect, the power to differentiate between right and wrong and given us the required senses to analyse and make an informed decision. We don't depend on others blindly even in normal matters of our life, then why in religion? **It is not just our right to question faith but instead our job**.

Why don't we question religion, its teachings and scriptures? I am not saying to deny what you follow but to verify what the truth is. We verify that whether something is from God or not, we don't question the command once the source becomes know to us. I give you an example, when we approach a doctor what we need to check is whether the person is really a doctor, once proved we don't verify the medicine he prescribed is suitable or not, for that is not our area of judgement. Similarly say during an emergency or war, if an army general arrives in your town and asks you to carry out some tasks what you need to verify is whether he really is an general of our government or nation and not that of enemy, once assured we don't question his plan or strategy for that is not our area of expertise. Similarly in the name of religion we verify that whether the religion or the book or the Messenger etc. is really from our Creator, the true Lord and God or whether that is from any human or devil and thus to be rejected. Once assured that it is from God then we must submit to it.

True religion must make sense.

God designed such a marvellous Universe, created it and is the controller of all affairs. The God who created us, the God who gave us intellect, the God who created earth and the planets etc. **is one and the same God; there is no god beside Him**. The very same and One God also revealed the way of guidance(religion) for us……. then… naturally we(humans), the laws governing the universe and religion revealed **must all** synchronise[2] and be in harmony with each other! Isn't that true? If anything including the religion is not in harmony with others, it simply means that it is not from God. **Can a perfect God make an imperfect religion** which includes superstitions, corruption, contradictions, irrationality etc.? Never can these absurdities[3] be attributed to God.

"And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allah(God) has revealed,"

[2] Be in coordination, match with each other, be in agreement

[3] Irrationalities, illogic, stupid

they say, "Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing." Even though their fathers understood nothing, nor were they guided?" Quran Chp-2 V-170

Isn't Islam also a religion?

In Quran, 'Islam' is described as '*deen*', which has very vast concept than being mere a religion. The word 'deen' means 'a way of life' and is not just related to form of worship or some rituals. '*Deen'* i.e. Islam guides an individual in all aspects of his life; it has solution to all the problems a person can face. Not just an individual, Islam even provides guidance in matters governing public life and the society as a whole.

For example, Islam does teach the way of prayer, fasting etc. but it also teaches an individual about dealing with relatives, about maintaining good relations with neighbours, selection of profession etc. on one hand and on the other hand it legislate laws governing crime, the social order, the economic policies, International affairs and all aspects of human life. In this way Islam is not just a religion, it is a **way of existence** as per the command of God, a '*deen*' governing all aspects of human life.

Islam encourages spirit of questioning

Islam discourages blind following and encourages the spirit of observation and questioning. It asks you to ponder over the creations of Allah(God), to observe the laws of nature and then study the Quran. And when you are satisfied that Islam is from the Same One who created Heavens and the Earth and is the Controller of all affairs then follow it with full willing submission.

*"Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are **signs for those of understanding** –……." Quran Chp 3 Verse 190 onwards*

*"Have they not travelled through the earth and **observed** how was the end of those before them?.." Quran Chp 30 V 9*

And at various places Quran asks to use wisdom, to observe the creation of heavens and earth and to travel and observe. Allah gave us intellect to make an informed choice, to know the consequences of our actions and that we submit to His will with full submission.

So what actually Islam is?

'**Islam**' is an Arabic word which **means** '**submitting to the will and commands of Allah(God)**'. Islam also means 'peace'. So Islam means to obey and submit to Allah(God) and thus acquire real peace.

Many people have a misconception that 'Islam' is a new religion. Islam is there from the time man was created. 'Islam' was sent with the first man on earth, Adam to guide him and his progeny(entire human race) to success. All the Messengers of Allah(God), from the first to the last, preached the same message, Islam i.e. submitting to the commands and will of Allah(God).

The word 'Islam' could have been pronounced differently in different languages but does not mean that these were different religions. The meaning of religion, its message, its essence was the same; to worship Allah(our God and creator) alone and to follow the law brought by the Prophet. Their message was same that Allah(God) is one & only, He alone deserves worship, that man is accountable before God on Day of Judgement(*qiyamah)*, to obey the Prophets and that when the final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad(s.a.w.) arrives, to believe in him and follow him strongly. All these teachings is nothing but Islam.

Who made Islam?

'Who created the sky?', 'Who created the Earth?', 'Who created the Sun and the Moon?', some may reply 'the Creator', others may say 'God', still others may answer 'the Maker', 'the Cherisher', 'the Great Being', 'the Supreme Power', 'the Supreme Being' etc. People may refer God with these names which are nothing but the attributes of Allah Almighty.

The One and only God, Allah(Glory be to Him) who created the Sun, the stars, the animals & the humans, is the same One who made Islam. Just as there is no error or defect in the creation of earth or the sky, similarly there is no defect in Islam[4]. Islam is not a product of human imagination or thought but a complete structure governing every aspect of human life, where everything enjoys its proper place.

If Allah(God) revealed only one religion, then why are there so many religions on earth?

Allah(God) revealed only one religion for all humans which is to submit to His will which in Arabic we say 'Islam'. Then a question arises that why are there so many religions on earth? The answer is **all Messengers preached Islam only**, but after the death of the Messengers, it has always been man who defaced the true religion. Men corrupted the true teachings out of greed, ignorance, jealousy, superiority feeling, with the intention to exploit others etc.[5] This led to the creation of so many different forms of religions and ways of life as are visible today. The existence of corruption, contradictions, superstitions etc. prove that these religions(the disfigured form of original religion) are no more fit to be followed or called as 'Guidance from God'.

We will discuss this topic in the later part of the book as well.

[4] Which again proves its divine origin

[5] A great deal of message was also lost for lack of documentation.

Islam the natural *deen*

Islam is called the '*deen ul fitrah'* which literally means 'the natural *deen*'. By natural it means that, following it will benefit you and leaving it will result in your own loss. This is because this system, Islam has been revealed by Allah(God) who is the creator of all that exists. He knows what is best for us. What Allah prescribed for us in Islam is the best and final, which cannot be improved upon for it is at the peak. Any interference or experimentation on the part of humans only brings destruction, loss and sufferings.

By natural it also means that it is as per the requirements of humans which mean it is most beneficial for them and is a practical way of life. To explain in simple words say a person may desire alcohol and may dislike milk while alcohol is harmful and milk beneficial for humans; so consuming milk is natural while consuming alcohol is going **against** nature. So is the case with Islam, a person may dislike Islam either because of ignorance or because of inclination towards evil but that does not make Islam unnatural. Islam is alone beneficial, if we carefully observe and practice it.

Islam is in nature of humans. If you leave a child on his nature he will be on the fundamentals of Islam. For he will naturally believe in an all powerful and magnificent God, he won't bow to idols rather he would consider it wrong to worship them(that is why we find young children don't easily accept the idea of idol worship for whom idols are just toys or some type of animal). Similarly such a child won't accept anyone as an intermediary of God and will pray to God directly. That is why the Prophet said "Every child is born on *fitrah*" that is on nature's law called as Islam. Therefore <u>every child is born as a Muslim</u>; it's his/her parents that makes the children follow something else.

A child's nature gets changed or what we can properly say that it gets defaced by parental pressure, influence of friends and relatives. And once his nature(fitrah) changes he may find Islam to be alien or non-compatible at first. But since it is in his nature, whenever he comes across Islam from its original source, Quran and Hadees[6] he recognizes it and its influence is visible on him such that his mind gets occupied thinking about Islam.

What is 'Imaan'? The belief system of Islam

The foundation of Islamic belief system, *Imaan* is laid on six pillars. The Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) was asked "What is Imaan(Faith)?" to which he replied "Imaan is to believe in

1. Allah(God),
2. His Prophets,
3. His Angels,
4. His Books(divinely revealed ones),
5. on the Day of Judgment(& life hereafter) and on
6. *taqdeer('divine decree' to be explained below)"*

Let's look at each of them in detail:

Who is Allah?

Some people have a misconception that 'Allah' is a different God. Allah is the Arabic word for God. Allah is the Creator and Sustainer of all humans. Why we call God as 'Allah' is because

- ✓ It is the most pure word and free from the defects that other word contains.
- ✓ In entire human history it has been used only to describe God alone and not anything else.

[6] The word of Allah is Quran and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w.) is hadees. These will be explained in detail in later part of the book

- ✓ No idol or mental image is associated with the word 'Allah' unlike other words which have been associated with idols
- ✓ All the Messengers of Allah(God) used the same word "Allah".
- ✓ It is internationally recognized word by one and all, for e.g. If you say 'Ishwar' the westerners may not understand it, similarly the word 'God' is alien to most of the Asians and Africans(except the city dwellers). But the word Allah is known and understood by everyone, even a non-muslim villager knows what it means.
- ✓ The most heart touching word and
- ✓ The one easiest to pronounce, even a new born can pronounce it easily. Rather I would say the cry of new-born best matches the word Allah only, etc.

Imaan in Allah

Belief in Allah and testifying(being witness) to this fact is of fundamental position in Islam. Belief in only one and all powerful God is called "*Tawheed(strict* monotheism)". This word has very wide definition, which even includes the qualities(attributes) of Allah, which none else can claim. '*Tawheed*' includes (1) His worship alone: All acts of worship like prayer, asking help, pilgrimage are for Him alone (2)Accepting only Allah's Lordship, that is He is the Creator, Organizer and Sustainer (3) that no one share His attributes, for example an attribute mentioned in Quran and Hadees is that He listens to the prayers. Now if any one believes that someone or something else also listens to prayers then he disbelieves in Allah[7]. And lastly that (4)absolute obedience is to Allah alone.

[7] Many other attributes/qualities like seeking only His refuge and help

Allah is one with no partners; there are no images or idols of Him. He is to be worshipped directly, in the way He has prescribed(and not in human invented ways).

Qualities of Allah Almighty

When we carefully observe nature, we find that the complete universe is governed by a perfect set of laws. The heavenly planets, stars as well as the minute particles like protons and electrons are governed by fixed & universal laws. Nothing is left to its own desire. These all point towards the existence of **a perfect planner** and **equally perfect implementer**. Who is such a wonderful planner and controller? He is Allah, the ***Most Merciful****(Ar-Rahman)*[8]

> [*And] who created seven heavens in layers. You do not see in the creation of the* ***Most Merciful****(Ar-Rahman) any inconsistency. So return [your] vision [to the sky]; do you see any breaks?*
> *Quran Chp 67 Verse 3*

Creation is the proof of creator, just as a painting is the proof of the existence of painter. So one is reminded in this *ayah* of Quran, that don't you observe the creation of heavens, the One who created everything is your Merciful God, Allah. He alone is the Creator of all that exists. Submit to your Creator.

His oneness

Today people claim that the God and the Lord of all humans is **one**; but the irony is that the same people worship more than one God. Some worship three; some ten, while still others worship millions of God. **When it is clear to everyone** that there can't be two chiefs to one organisation, two governors over one city, two rulers over one

[8] *Ar-Rahman* which means *'Most Merciful'* is one the names of Allah Almighty.

country **then how can such a splendid, vast and complex Universe have more than one Creator?** Just observe the Sun, the moon, the rotation of the earth, the changing of seasons, the coming down of rain, the availability of minerals, the birth and death of living creatures etc. Could all these things have worked so smoothly, if there had been more than one Planner and Controller? Do not the universal and perfect laws point towards One, Supreme, All knowing, Great and Perfect Lord?

Had there been within them [i.e., the heavens and earth] gods Besides Allah, they both(heavens and the earth) would have been ruined. So exalted is Allah, Lord of the Throne, (pure and high is He) above what they describe.
Quran Chp 21 Verse 22

<u>He is most supreme, free from any needs</u>

Prophet (s.a.w.) said that Allah(may He be glorified) says: "O My servants, I have forbidden oppression for Myself and have made it forbidden among you, so do not oppress one another. O My servants, all of you are astray except for those I have guided, so seek guidance of Me and I shall guide you, O My servants, all of you are hungry except for those I have fed, so seek food of Me and I shall feed you. O My servants, all of you are naked except for those I have clothed, so seek clothing of Me and I shall clothe you. O My servants, you sin by night and by day, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness of Me and I shall forgive you. O My servants, you will not attain harming Me so as to harm Me, and will not attain benefitting Me so as to benefit Me. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as pious as the most pious heart of any one man of you, that would not increase My kingdom in anything[9]. O

[9] i.e. if everyone starts obeying Allah, Allah's Kingdom would not increase as everything already belongs to Him and is under His Control and Dominion.

My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as wicked as the most wicked heart of any one man of you, that would not decrease My kingdom in anything[10]*. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to rise up in one place and make a request of Me, and were I to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have, any more that a needle decreases the sea if put into it. O My servants, it is but your deeds that I reckon up for you and then recompense you for, so let him who finds good praise Allah and let him who finds other than that blame no one but himself."*[11]

The above hadees clearly explains that Allah *subhan wa taala* is free of needs and worthy of all praise. He is the One who listens to our prayers, provide us sustenance and forgive us despite our shortcomings[12]. **Allah does not require us but we require Him**. His greatness, His power, His Kingdom, His resources are beyond our imagination. This life is an exam and therefore those who submit to Allah submit for their own good and those who reject, oppress their own selves, as their disobedience does not harm the plan or dominion of Allah. All of us are misguided except those to whom He guides and hence we must seek guidance from Him.

Those qualities truly befit our true Lord. But what has happened to man that he started worshipping things which are dependant on him for their care and maintenance, are such things god? How can god require food or protection? Does man not think what is he

[10] And if all humans start disobeying Him still that would not reduce His Kingdom even a bit for everything belongs to Him and all humans put together cannot disrupt anything.
[11] Sahih Muslim (also reported in books of hadees at-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah).
[12] Faults, weaknesses,flaws

worshipping? Idols and stones which he makes from his own hands, some of which he selects as gods and discard others as defective pieces!! Are these gods which require full time servants for their upkeep? We find that if a storm occurs their devotees run to protect the idols and the temporary structures in which they are installed seasonally. Creation running to protect the creator!! Or is this vice versa? Also we keep on reading news like jewellery of idols being looted etc.!! Can't god protect even himself? Further we also come to know how so many, so many idols and the places were they are worshipped gets destroyed during floods, earthquakes and storms. Gods(the Idols) getting destroyed and their thousands of devotees dying!! Does this not open man's eyes? What is man doing? Do we not think?

No idols

Man followed the right path under the supervision of Prophets. However when Messengers died, man abandoned the **real Islam,** adopted evil practices and thus made new religions, very different from the way shown by Allah. This led to all sorts of superstitions and evil practices creeping in religion in the name of faith. This led to degradation of man's intellect and he went from the worship of **the one and only true God** to the worship of things, living and non-living, which possessed some good or **even bad** qualities. People also started worshipping forces of nature out of fear and thus came the evil practice of idolatry which paved way for all forms of evil. Man went to further extreme and even started worshiping creations of his imaginations and thus came the idols like semi-man semi-god, or an animal god, or a god with some animal's head or even ideas like love, anger, nation(motherland) etc.

Do you not know that Allah knows what is in the heaven and earth? Indeed, that is in a Record. Indeed that, for Allah, is easy. And they worship besides Allah that for which He has not sent down authority and that of which they have no knowledge. And there will not be for the wrongdoers any helper.

And when Our verses are recited to them as clear evidences, you recognize in the faces of those who disbelieve disapproval. They are almost on the verge of assaulting those who recite to them Our verses. Say, "Then shall I inform you of [what is] worse than that? [It is] the Fire which Allah has promised those who disbelieve, and wretched is the destination."
O people, an example is presented, so listen to it. Indeed, those you invoke besides Allah will never create [as much as] a fly, even if they gathered together for it [i.e., that purpose]. And if the fly should steal from them a [tiny] thing, they could not recover it from him. Weak are the pursuer and pursued.[13]
They have not appraised Allah with true appraisal.[14] *Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might.*
Quran Chp 22 Verse 70-74

Worshipping anything besides Allah, is open revolt against Him. Worshipping idols, bowing before them, asking them for help is like insulting the true God, Allah. But remember, Allah is free of all needs, worthy of all praise. By our actions we simply show degradation of our intellect and preference for falsehood. Thus man degraded and adopted all forms of evil and superstition, for idolatry is the peak of deterioration of mankind.

An idol is nothing but a carved material or some natural substance. They are no more than the creation of Allah. Even the Messengers of Allah or His angels do not share a least bit of His divinity, then how can a stone or a cow or a dead man or some fictional character or idol ever listen to your prayer. Even if one person dies crying for water in front of these things, they won't hear you in the least; leave aside helping or providing for you.

[13] i.e. the worshipper and the worshipped. Also includes that the goal which they want to achieve is illusion.
[14] They have not assessed Him with the assessment due to Him, meaning that they did not take into account His perfect attributes(qualities)

*But they worship rather than Allah that **which does not benefit them or harm them**, and the disbeliever is ever, against his Lord, an assistant [to Satan]. Quran Chp 25 Verse 55*

How can a person make idols when no man has ever seen God? Depicting Allah(God) as idol, image etc. is strictly prohibited in Islam. Allah is the Creator and not the creation. There is no comparison between Him and His creation. He cannot be personified neither is possible for us to depict Him in the manner He actually is. This life is a test to believe in Him without seeing[15]. Only the believers will see Allah, in His actual form in Jannat(Paradise) i.e. life hereafter(*Akhirah[16]*).

In Islam idol worship is strictly prohibited. We are not allowed even to bow to Messengers of Allah, who are the best of people, for there is nothing in this universe so high and supreme that we should bow down to it. All forms of (tazeem) respect and honour is for Allah alone. Therefore making images of even the Messengers is not allowed in Islam for it opens the path to idolatry.

"O people, an example is presented, so listen to it. Indeed, those you invoke besides Allah(God) will never create [as much as] a fly, even if they gathered together for it [i.e., that purpose]. And if the fly should steal from them(the idols) a [tiny] thing, they could not recover it from him. Weak are the pursuer and the pursued."
Quran Surah Hajj Chp 22 V 73

<u>*Shirk* i.e. Associating Partners with Allah is the greatest sin</u>

Idol worship, worshiping man(whether saint or a con[17], whether dead or alive) worshipping animals, stones, planets, believing anything

[15] Quran Chp 67 Verse 12
[16] The concept of Akhirah is to be explained in detail later
[17] A Fraudster

besides Allah has power to provide you or punish you, to cure you or to answer your prayers etc. is all ***shirk*** and is the greatest sin, a sin that if you die while you used to do shirk, you are bound for hell. Shirk is unforgivable. If a person has committed Shirk out of ignorance etc. must repent sincerely to Allah as soon as he realizes his/her mistake and abandon the evil practise of Shirk, and sincerely follow the way shown by Allah, for such Allah will forgive them and open up the gates of His Mercy on them.

No intermediaries

In Islam there is no role of an intermediary between you and your Creator. We worship and pray to Allah directly following the way shown by the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad(s.a.w). In Islam you don't need to beg or submit to any idol, priest, pandit or wait for any time(*shubh mohrat*) or do any extreme acts(like taking *sanyas* or to go Himalayas) to reach Allah. Allah listens to everyone directly.

And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.
Quran Chp 2 Verse 186

How can you deny Allah?

Allah is the one who not only created you but also gave you life, bestowed upon you family & friends, established you in society, provided sustenance, made you healthy and fit and provided you with countless other things of which you can't even imagine. How can we deny Him and neglect His commands? Even if all humans worship anything else besides Allah, His kingdom and authority does not reduce a bit because everything belongs to Him, no matter whether you accept this fact or not. Similarly if all humans worship and praise Allah, His dominion does not increase since everything already belongs to Him.

Believing in Allah is so important, so important, for God is our creator and cherisher. If you can not identify Him, worship Him and follow His commandments, we can never be able to achieve our real purpose of life. True peace of mind lies in following the will of Allah. Ultimate satisfaction and success is with Allah alone. Rejecting Allah, His Oneness, His obedience is challenging His authority, is a revolt against Him. Allah the most merciful can forgive any sin but will never forgive the sin of *Shirk*(associating partners with Him either in worship, prayer or **even ultimate obedience** to anything besides Him). Such people will never enter paradise. A traitor of a country may find a refuge in some other land but where can a person who has revolted against Allah(God) find refuge because heavens and earth belongs to Allah and Allah alone. Is not Hell a befitting place for such?

Your beliefs have impact on your actions, your way of living, practices and habits. These in turn have impact on your surroundings, society and world at large. Thus if your basic and fundamental belief[18] is corrupt then its effect will be felt everywhere in and around you.

I request the readers to read Quranic verses with more attention and carefully, pondering over its verses.

59. Say, "Praise be to Allah(God), and peace upon His servants whom He has chosen. Is Allah(God) better or what they associate with Him?"
60. [More precisely], is He [not best] who created the heavens and the earth and sent down for you rain from the sky, causing to grow thereby gardens of joyful beauty which you could not [otherwise] have grown the trees thereof? Is there a deity with Allah(God)? [No], but they are a people who ascribe equals [to Him].
61. Is He [not best] who made the earth a stable ground and placed within it rivers and made for it firmly set mountains and placed between the two seas a barrier? Is there a deity with Allah(God)? [No], but most of them do not know.

[18] Concept and belief about God

62. Is He [not best] who responds to the desperate one when he calls upon Him and removes evil and makes you inheritors of the earth? Is there a deity with Allah(God)? Little do you remember.
63. Is He [not best] who guides you through the darknesses of the land and sea and who sends the winds as good tidings before His mercy? Is there a deity with Allah(God)? High is Allah(God) above whatever they associate with Him.
64. Is He [not best] who begins creation and then repeats it and who provides for you from the heaven and earth? Is there a deity with Allah(God)? Say, "Produce your proof, if you should be truthful."
65. Say, "None in the heavens and earth knows the unseen except Allah(God), and they do not perceive when they will be resurrected."
66. Rather, their knowledge is arrested concerning the Hereafter. Rather, they are in doubt about it. Rather, they are, concerning it, blind.
Quran Surah Namal Chp 27 Verse 59-66

<u>If Allah is pleased with you are successful otherwise failure</u>

Once the Prophet Muhammad(peace be upon him) said to Ibn Abbas(R.A) " O boy! I will instruct you in some matters. Be watchful of Allah(i.e. His commandments), He will preserve you, Safeguard His rights, He will be ever with you, If you beg, beg of Him alone, if you need help, supplicate to Allah alone. And remember that if all people gather to benefit you, they will not be able to benefit you except that which Allah had foreordained (for you), and if all of them gather to harm you, they will not be able to afflict you with anything other than that which Allah has pre-destined against you. The pen has been lifted and the ink has dried up(i.e. everything is pre-destined called as taqdeer[19] and that is part of faith) ."[20]

Most people in the process of pleasing people disobey Allah i.e. they commit sins and thus displease Allah. For e.g. A person after truly

[19] Explained under the heading 'Imaan in taqdeer'
[20] Riyad-us-Saliheen Chp 5 Hadees 62

knowing about Allah may continue with his previous practice of disbelief just to please his parents or out of fear of friends and relatives or the fear of loosing job or whatever else may be the reason but in this process he is displeasing Allah. To such people the hadees reminds us that no one can harm or benefit you except what Allah wills therefore one must not fear men but fear Allah alone. A wise person will rely only on Allah, he will do any act to please Allah alone for such a person knows that only Allah alone has the power to benefit or harm a person. The one whom Allah saves or intends to bestow His mercy none can withhold and to whom He intends to punish none can save. So wisdom is in to believe in Allah and to follow His guidance by which one wins His pleasure. If Allah is pleased with you then you are really successful and He will make everyone pleased with you and will reward you to the extent that you could never imagine and thus you will become entirely pleased with Him. While if you disobey Allah to please people there is no guarantee that people will be pleased with you however Allah will be displeased with you.

Only He has the right to be obeyed

Allah does not intend to punish you but He also does not like disbelief on part of His slaves. Those who disbelieve, oppress their own selves as their disbelief does not cause God any harm rather it causes harm to their own selves.

Allah is Most Merciful, He sent the Messengers, He revealed the Message, He showed the way(Islam) to achieve His pleasure and is ready to guide you if you seek guidance from Him. Believe in your Creator, Allah! Belief is not a lip service, it demands full submission. So obey and follow the path shown by Allah Almighty.

Imaan in Messengers

God Himself doesn't come in any physical form to guide people and nor does He need to. What Allah does is to select pious & righteous men to whom He conveys the divine message and give them the responsibility to convey this message to people. Since their duty is to convey the message and guide the people they are called 'Messengers of Allah'. They are also referred as Prophets[21].

When Allah created man, He did not left him alone to get lost. Allah out of His Intense Mercy kept on sending His Messengers for the guidance of mankind. Whenever people went astray (meaning deviated from the original teachings of previous Prophet) a new Prophet was sent to guide them from disbelief to belief. The Messengers reminded people of their responsibility, warned them of punishment in case of disobedience and gave glad news of Paradise to the believers. They reminded people that each and everyone of us is accountable to Allah for his each and every action. And that we will be gathered and raised up again on the Day of Judgement and that Paradise and Hell are reality.

The basic message of all the Prophets whether Adam, Noah(Nuh), Abraham(Ibrahim), Moses(Musa), Jesus(Isa)[22] etc. (peace be upon them all) was same. However, the previous Prophets were sent only for their time and for their people. Since, Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) is the last Messenger of Allah, he was sent as a Universal Messenger i.e. for all humans and for all times to come. As Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) is the last Prophet, its an **obligation on all humans**, to believe in him, to follow him and to support him and his

[21] The Arabic words for Messenger and Prophet is 'Rasool' and 'Nabi' respectively.

[22] Whenever the name of any Prophet is mentioned the believers say ***"alaih salaam"*** which means **'Peace be upon him'**

mission. To deny Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w.) is to deny Allah, for he has been chosen by Allah.

And We did not send any messenger except to be obeyed by permission of Allah…. (Quran Chp 4 Verse 64)

Short description of the Life of the Greatest Person - Muhammad (s.a.w)

Messenger of Allah, Muhammad(s.a.w[23]) was born in the city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia. He was appointed as a Messenger when he was of 40 years of age and from that time began his struggle to free people from the shackles of darkness and to bring them to the light of Islam.

All the earlier Prophets and their message was limited to the people they were sent for. Even the message was meant to be valid only up to the arrival of next Prophet. However as Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) was the last and final Messenger of Allah, he was appointed as a Universal Messenger that is for all people of the world and for all the times to come. That means today for any person, living in any part of the world if he wishes to be truly guided and successful, he has to follow the guidance and law brought by Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w).

The Prophet was the most modest and humble person. He forbade people to stand up for him as other people usually did for their kings or religious personalities. Visiting the poor, needy, relatives and helping them were some of his habits. If a poor man invited him, he

[23] When the name of Prophet Muhammad is mentioned the believers say **"*sallal lahu alaih wa sallam*" which means the choicest blessings and salutations of Allah(God) be upon him.** In the whole book **"*sallal lahu alaih wa sallam*"** has been mentioned in short as **'s.a.w'** to avoid any confusion and must be understood as such.

used to accept the invitation. He always sat among the people as though he was an ordinary man, to the extent that if a new person arrived in the meeting, he could not identify who amongst them is the Prophet. To repair his shoes, sew or mend his dress, to prepare his ride, to help his family in household works, to milk the sheep were some of his normal jobs. He did all this when he was the ruler of a state larger in size than the present Saudi Arabia(including todays Bahrain, Najd, Parts of Yemen, Oman, Kuwait, UAE etc.). He always actively took part and shared every job in which the benefit of general public was involved.

The Prophet Muhammad's love, affection and care for his companions and people around him was such that each person used to think that the Prophet loved him the most. And in turn he was also loved by the believers more than their own selves. All the actions, sayings, approvals, disapprovals, his likes and dislikes, his behaviour, his mode of speaking, walking, his habits etc. of the Prophet were so carefully watched and followed that **today there is not single person in the history of mankind about whom we know more than Prophet Muhammad**(s.a.w).

Look at the life of any great men of history, whether who died recently or earlier, and you will come to learn only about a limited sphere of his/her life, may be about his political career or about his achievements as a scientist, philosopher etc. And then have a look at the life of the Prophet. He succeeded as a Prophet, a statesman, a Commander and general, a Revolutionary, a father, a husband, a preacher, a reformer, a friend, a brother, a peace maker, an orator, a strategist, an economist, a guide, a believer, a trader, a leader, a teacher etc. And in all these roles he established new trends, perfected the work, set examples to be imitated, motivated others and established the real message of Allah Almighty in this world. His life and teachings present an excellent example to be followed and

have the solution to all(I say again "ALL") the problems of the world(and not just humans). Each and every aspect of his life has been clearly recorded and passed on to us in well preserved books of *Hadees*[24](Books on the life and teachings of the Prophet).

At times, I am surprised to see some ignorant people criticizing the Prophet of Islam. How can anyone criticize the noblest man, the perfect, the greatest and the faultless person of the world? Then I realized that the greater the popularity and goodness of a person, the more enemies he have and thus, naturally the most successful person in religious as well as secular level, Prophet Muhammad, have the largest number of critics to his share. The Prophet was accused by the unbelievers during his time and they are doing it now. I ask them "Are you really unaware of his life? Or do you simply enjoy and take delight in propagating a distorted and false image of the Prophet?" But unfortunately for the critics and fortunately for the seekers of truth, the life and teachings of the Prophet are open for everyone to check & follow. And thus the critics can "only allege" but never prove. Any person after learning about the Prophet will realize the truth even if he/she is a non-Muslim.

Prophet Muhammad has been the centre of attraction for scholars, historians, philosophers from a long time. Lamartine[25], a French Historian and poet, very beautifully described the achievements of Prophet in these words "If greatness of purpose, smallness of means and astonishing results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare to compare any man greater in history with (Prophet) Muhammad?"

[24] Hadees and books of hadees has been explained under the heading "which books must be studied…."

[25] A French. He was a poet, a member of the provisional government, and a one-time presidential candidate.

His greatest achievement was that he not just freed humanity from the disgrace of worshipping and serving stones and altars but also from the slavery of false ideologies and corrupt laws. He for the first time gave the slogan **"One God, One Prophet, One People and One Law(Quran) "**.

The words and ideas that he presented were so beautiful and precise that anyone who hears them will remember it. **He for the first time presented those ideas which are today the foundation of the modern world** like right to life, education, religion, expression, equality etc. He said "There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, or of a non-Arab over a Arab, of a white over a black or of a black over a white except through *taqwa*(i.e. piety, God consciousness, righteousness) . You all are children of Adam(the first man and prophet of God) , and Adam was created from dust." And **unlike** other famous philosophers, he just didn't gave ideas **but practically achieved all that he preached** and today we find people of all colours under the cool shade of Islam.

In just 23 years of his Prophethood, he changed the direction of the world and gave birth to the revolution that changed the course of history and still have the greatest impact on human society. He was, is and will be the most cherished and loved human on the earth. He still holds the quality of being the most admired man that even slightest disrespect to his personality calls great protests from his followers all around the world, a quality and position which no other man can claim. His message is ready to embrace you and change your destiny. Are you ready to grasp his finger?

"And why do you not believe in Allah(God) while the Messenger invites you to believe in your Lord and He has taken your covenant, if you should [truly] be believers?
It is He who sends down upon His Servant [Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w)] verses of clear evidence that He may bring you

out from darknesses into the light. And indeed, Allah(God) is to you Kind and Merciful." Quran Surah Hadeed Chp 57 V 8-9

Imaan on Books

Allah(God) revealed divine books for the guidance of mankind through His Prophets. By name four(4) divine books are mentioned in the Quran,

1. The Torah(The Law revealed to Prophet Musa{Moses}),
2. Zaboor(revealed to Prophet Dawood(David)),
3. Injeel(Gospel revealed to Prophet Isa(Jesus) and
4. Quran(revealed to Prophet Muhammad s.a.w).

Besides these numerous other books(*suhufs)* were also revealed to different Prophets. However, as the earlier Prophets were meant for only their people and for their time only so also were those books. In Islam we believe that all these Prophets and those books were indeed from Allah. However our obedience is to the Final book(Quran) and the Final Messenger(Muhammad s.a.w.) only.

All the earlier books have lost their divinity because of human interference and corruption. The only divine book present in it original form on the earth is Quran. Quran which is the last and ultimate book of everlasting guidance is for all humans and for all times to come. Nobody can corrupt the Quran for it is a Miracle from Allah given to Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) and Allah Himself promised to protect this book[26].

Imaan on Angels

Angels are one of the numerous creations of Allah. They are His servants, just as we are, with the difference that they are completely obedient to Him and never disobey Him. On the other hand we have

[26] Quran Chp 15 v 9

been given freedom to (1)choose His obedience and thus pass the test of this life or (2) Deny Him or His command and follow own desires(no need to inform that such person is going to fail).

Angels act as per the will of Allah and are normally not visible to humans. They worship Allah and are assigned various jobs from controlling rain to just praising Allah. They are free of desires but even then they do not share any divinity with Allah(God) as some pagans believe[27].

Allah honoured man by granting him freewill, wisdom and respect. Now if Man acknowledges Allah(God) using his intelligence and accepts the true guidance by his freewill , he is raised above angels in rank and honour. On the other hand if Man rejects guidance out of his arrogance then all his knowledge and learning is useless and thus he is reduced to status lower than animals. Thus, **it is Imaan that matters & not your wealth, lineage or learning.**

Imaan on Akhirah(Life Hereafter)

Most people consider this life to be final. If this is final and decisive then why do we don't stay here forever? Why can't you defeat death? Why can't you remain young and energetic for ever? This clearly shows that this life is temporary. But man seems to be aimless and is running behind this vanishing world. We are ignoring very important & bitter aspect of this life; and that is 'death'! Daily we see people dying, those people whom you knew or you talked to die in front of your own eyes. Does this not force you to think?

Do you not consider how helpless you are that you can't save your dear one from dying even after having so much money, doctors,

[27] Some unbelievers worship Angels calling them the daughters of God while others worship them by calling Devs or Devis. Angels are also free from sins and nor do they promote it, this is contrary to how they are being represented in European drawings and beliefs.

medicines and technology at your disposal! Does your helplessness not teach you something? It does. 'Death' reminds us a very important lesson that this earth is not your place, you have to leave it willingly or unwillingly, you can't live here permanently, nothing you own is truly yours; you have to leave it and go. It also reminds you that we are not the controllers but are controlled by some mighty power. It means that we are subservient[28] and that we need to submit to our controller to be truly successful.

> *Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his goal]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion.*
> *Quran Chp 3 Verse 185*

This life is a delusion, for all those things that you strive for fame, money, power, family, mate, food, houses, qualifications etc. nothing remains with you at your death. '*Every soul will taste death'* but still we are so negligent towards it! Have you ever thought what is on the other side of death?

So where are we heading to? To hereafter!! Real life is the life of hereafter which has no end to it, which is for ever and ever. Likewise the real house is the house of hereafter, it is up to you to build it in paradise or hell! The Quran reminds us that this life is our examination; it's the place for work and not for enjoyment. *So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his purpose](Quran).* And the goal of our life should be to qualify for 'Paradise' and save ourselves from Hell.

[28] There is a controller over us.

With death ends your exam and the reality of this life and the real life ahead of you will open up and be crystal clear before you. And as long Allah wills the earth will continue and when He wills it will come to an end[29]. On that day Allah will raise up all the dead people, from the first to the last and will give them life and that is why this day is called 'Day of Rising up(Resurrection)' i.e. '*Qiyamah*'. This day when everyone will be raised up again, this day will be the day of result.

That day will be difficult for the rejecters of *Imaan* while those who lived as per the guidance of Allah will be in joy and happiness. Since hereafter is forever it implies that either it is the pleasure of Allah(and hence Paradise along with all its luxuries and enjoyment for ever) or it is the wrath of your Lord(and naturally Hell along with its pain and sufferings for ever). Such huge consequences are at stake on this small life of earth!! The matter is serious, don't take it easy. If you ignore to obey Allah(the lord of mankind) in this world, you bring your own destruction in this life as well as hereafter. And if you submit to His commands for the short stay on earth you choose Paradise(Swarg, Jannat) which is much greater than what we deserve. The choice is in your hands!!

Logical analysis for the *Qiyamah*(Day of Judgement) and *Akhirah*(the real world in the hereafter)

Some people raise objection to the belief of hereafter and say that this life is final. What is so difficult to understand? Rather it makes complete sense. In every age the Messengers of Allah called people to prepare for *akhirah*, to follow the guidance and change your disbelieving and sinful lifestyle. The disbelievers always mocked at

[29] And that end is very near as we are living in the last phase of this earth. The Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) prophesized that the Qiyamah(Day of Resurrection) is very near and can occur at any moment for He is the last Prophet of Allah and there is no Prophet after him.

these and said these are ancient stories. These are not stories but a reminder from our Lord. He could have punished us instantly for our disbelief but He gives us time to think and repent so that we can save our self from loss and destruction.

While no loss occurs to Allah out of our rejection, still because of His Mercy He explains to us and clears our doubts in Quran, He says

And he(man) presents for Us an example and forgets his [own] creation. He says, "Who will give life to bones while they are disintegrated?"
*Say, "**He will give them life who produced them the first time**; and He is, of all creation, Knowing."*
[It is] He who made for you from the green tree, fire, and then from it you ignite.
Is not He who created the heavens and the earth Able to create the likes of them[30]? Yes, [it is so]; and He is the Knowing Creator.
His command is only when He intends a thing that He says to it, "Be," and it is.[31]
So exalted is He in whose hand is the realm of all things, and to Him you will be returned.
Quran Chp 36 V 78-83

When Allah created you for the first time why can't He make you for the second time? What is difficult to create for the first time or to create second time? While creating for the first time you are doing something totally new, unaware of the consequences. You have to

[30] The argument is 'A superb creator who can create so difficult and huge things like planets, stars and galaxies etc., can't he recreate a tiny creature man?'
[31] Allah is so powerful and all mighty that He just needs to intend something and that thing happens. It is that easy for Him.

design, research, invest time, face failures etc. While at the second time you simply have to reproduce from your successful attempt.
That is why we know about the 'Wright brothers', who invented the first airplane but most of us don't know who invented the much more sophisticated Boeing747 or F16 or an Airbus320? Which one is more advanced the first plane or the F16 etc.? Of course the later ones but we know who invented the first ones. Why? Because all of us acknowledge that creating for the first time is **very difficult** while copying or improving is much easier. That is what the Quran says, ***He will give them life who produced them the first time.*** Moreover, Allah(God) didn't created us from a single mould(frame) but made each one of distinct. Remember, you are not the indiscriminately made product of some cheap company, **Y-o-u a-r-e s-p-e-c-i-a-l.**

Quran further questions, why do you think that recreating us is difficult for Allah?

Did We fail in the first creation? But they are in confusion over a new creation. Quran Chp 50 Verse 15

Allah is asking whether He failed in creating you for the first time? If yes, then your doubts have some weight. But we observe that Allah created the whole Universe in the first instance itself so superbly that we find no scope for improvement. So a Planner and a Maker who can create so precisely in the first try itself, will He fail in its **re**creation? Definitely **not**.

In one *hadees* the Prophet s.a.w. said *"Allah said, 'The son of Adam(i.e. humans) tells a lie against me though he has no right to do so, and he abuses Me though he has no right to do so. As for his telling a lie against Me, it is that he claims that I cannot recreate him as I created him before; and as for his abusing Me, it is his statement that I have a son(children or offspring etc.). No! Glorified be Me! I am far from taking a wife or a son(children or offspring etc.)'".*[32]

[32] Sahih Bukhari Volume 6 Hadees Number 9

Another example is presented in Quran

9. And We have sent down blessed rain from the sky and made grow thereby gardens and grain from the harvest
10. And lofty palm trees having fruit arranged in layers –
11. As provision for the servants, and We have given life thereby to a dead land. ***Thus is the emergence*** *[i.e., resurrection].*
Quran Chp 50 Verse 9-11[33]

Here man's comparison is made with 'dead land'. Just like when in summer the land looks dry and absolutely dead. There is no trace of life visible on it. Any man seeing it may assume that this land will never ever support life looking at its dryness and its dead appearance. However, when rain descends on earth that same land gets revived full of life, trees, flowers, birds, butterflies etc. *Subhan Allah!!* Likewise Allah explains to us that just as easy for Him is to revive the dead land, so is easy for Him to revive the dead bodies all from nothing. What's so difficult about it for Allah? Will you not think?

So observe the effects of the mercy of Allah – how He gives life to the earth after its lifelessness. Indeed, that [same one] will give life to the dead, and He is over all things competent.
Quran Chp 30 Verse 50

Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) explained about the process of resurrection in very simple language by giving example of sleep. He said "Just as you sleep, so shall you die and just as you wake up so shall you be raised up again(on Qiyamah)". Here sleep is compared to death while awakening is compared with resurrection. Just as easy it is for Allah to cause us to sleep and awake, so is easy for Him to cause us to rise again.

[33] Similar messages in Quran Chp 30 V 50, Chp 41 V 39

Now let's go through some more verses of Quran:

5. *O people, if you should be in doubt about the Resurrection, then [consider that] indeed, We created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot, and then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed – that We may show you[34]. And We settle in the wombs whom We will for a specified term, then We bring you out as a child, and then [We develop you] that you may reach your [time of] maturity. And among you is he who is taken in [early] death, and among you is he who is returned to the most decrepit [old] age so that he knows, after [once having] knowledge, nothing. <u>And you see the earth barren, but when We send down upon it rain, it quivers and swells and grows [something] of every beautiful kind.</u>*

{{Just observe (1) how beautifully He creates you for the first time, then (2) how He has the power to reverse you(from your strength to weakness again) & (3) how He gives life to the dead land! These three arguments are presented and the natural interpretation is- The One who can do all these, its very easy for Him to resurrect(raise you on Qiyamah)!!}}

6. *That is because Allah is the Truth and because He gives life to the dead and because He is over all things competent*

7. And [that they may know] that the Hour is coming – no doubt about it – and that Allah will resurrect those in the graves.

{{When He can create so precisely in the womb of a mother, then what so surprising about resurrection?}}

[34] Our power and creative ability.

8. And of the people is he who disputes about Allah without knowledge or guidance or an enlightening book [from Him],

{{Why do you argue without proof about what Allah, All knower has described. Are you more knowledgeable than your Creator? Do you have any solid reason to deny? Or do you deny because that is against what you desire?}}

*9. Twisting his neck [in arrogance] to mislead [people] from the way of Allah. For him in the **world**(this earthly life) **is disgrace**, and We will make him taste on the Day of Resurrection the punishment of the Burning Fire [while it is said],*

10. "That is for what your hands have put forth and because Allah is not ever unjust to [His] servants."

{{Denial because of arrogance! Where else can such a person find refuge}}

Quran Chp 22 Verses 5-10

27. Are you a more difficult creation or is the heaven? He [i.e., Allah] constructed it.
28. He raised its ceiling and proportioned it.
29. And He darkened its night and extracted its brightness[35].
30. And after that He spread the earth.
31. He extracted from it its water and its pasture,
32. And the mountains He set firmly
33. As enjoyment [i.e., provision] for you and your grazing livestock.
34. But when there comes the greatest Overwhelming Calamity[36]
35. The Day when man will remember that for which he strove,
36. And Hellfire will be exposed for [all] those who see
37. So as for he who transgressed
38. And preferred the life of the world,

[35] i.e., created the day from within the surrounding darkness.
[36] the Day of Resurrection

39. Then indeed, Hellfire will be [his] refuge.
40. But as for he who feared the position of his Lord[37] and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination,
41. Then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge.
Quran Chp 79 Verse 27-41[38]

Arguments for ignoring

Some people say that if at all *Qiyamah* comes, they will find there goodness just as they are enjoying luxuries in this world. Don't be deceived by the luxuries you enjoy in this world. If you are enjoying some luxuries in this world that does not mean that you are on the right and that you will be successful in the hereafter just as if one is facing hardships in this life does not mean that he is a sinner or will be among the losers in the hereafter. This life has literally no value and so are its luxuries and hardships. Mathematically, value of this world compared to the never ending(infinite ∞) hereafter is

$$\frac{100 \text{ years}}{\infty \text{ years}} = 0$$ → Yes, the value of this life is nothing, its zero!

This life is simply an examination; some are tested by luxuries while others by hardships. **In the hereafter only those will be successful who submit to Allah(Islam) in this world.**

After understanding about 'Qiyamah' how can you try to ignore by saying that 'I will face *Qiyamah* when it comes'. Such a person is only deceiving himself, for the decision time is this world. Can any person answer a question paper after coming out of the examination hall?? Don't deceive yourself my brother/sister! Follow the guidance and not the whims and whispers of the own self or the Shaitan(satan)[39].

[37] An alternative meaning is "the standing [for account] before his Lord."
[38] Further references Quran Chp 75 V 37-40, Chp 76 V 1, Quran Chp 30 Verse 27, Quran Chp 41 Verse 39
[39] Described later in the book

Another argument- believing only after seeing

What's the use of **believing only after seeing**? That is lame reasoning. Just imagine if there is a poisonous gas leakage (that has no colour or any peculiar smell) in your area and someone alerts you to immediately vacate the city. What will you do? Either you believe him or you doubt him but never in your senses will you go and breathe that air to check whether you die of it or not!! That will be very stupid. What you do is to verify the genuineness and truthfulness of the informant, whether he really is the authorised person of the government or the local administration. That is called intelligence and exactly that is what I ask you to do. Go and verify whether Quran deserves to be called as book of God(Allah) and whether that Muhammad(s.a.w) is really a Messenger of Allah(God), if answer to both the questions is 'yes' **then YOU have no reason to doubt them**, rather wisdom demands to **submit to them wholly for YOUR own welfare**. YOU can't wait for *Qiyamah*(Day of Judgement) to occur to decide what to do!!

You won't be allowed to blame anyone else on day of *Qiyamah* for your rejection(disbelief)

On 'Day of Judgement(Qiyamah)' if you are destined for Hell, you can't blame anyone for your result, you can't blame your parents that they forced you to reject the guidance of Allah, you can't blame your friends or the societal pressure, or misguiding leaders whether politicians or so called *dharm gurus* who made religion a matter of their ego and misguides people to exploit their passions and resources. Why can't you blame them? Because you are not a child, you must use your senses, you must search for the guidance of Allah Almighty. Allah gave you intellect to decide for yourselves, He sent guidance and Messengers, He preserved for you the true religion, He revealed book of guidance. On top of it, Allah even promised help & protection even in this world to those who choose to follow His path. With all these, how can you ever blame any one else for your disbelief. Your decision to accept or reject; is your alone.

Qiyamah is truth as well as essential

Without this principle of *Akhirah* everything is incomplete and useless. Just think about it, Why do tyrants enjoy while the good people work as slaves? Why do some enjoy 100 years of life while others are born dead!? Or simply why do people die? **If there is no *Qiyamah* then** there is no meaning of justice, when a killer of 100 people goes to prison only for 7 years!!(Many even don't go to jail). There is no meaning of hard work when a labourer earns only few hundred rupees a day while the person who was born to a billionaire spends lavishly millions on daily basis. **If there is no *Qiyamah* then** Why I must not cheat or steal when no one is seeing? Why I must follow the law and all social customs etc.? Why I must work and not steal? Why I must exercise self control and not kill the one whom I hate? Why should I sacrifice and care for other people from whom I have nothing to gain? Why should I do selfless service without expecting anything from humans? There is no answer to these questions if there is no *Qiyamah, a real Qiyamah!*

This is the reason that people who don't have *Imaan* find it difficult to control themselves. They get flown in the waves of the people; they don't have any strong principles to adhere to. Such people may talk about humanity or religion etc. but these are hollow[40] claims, which fail in testing times and therefore such people get involved in one or more activity involving drugs or depression or suicide or theft or robbery or crimes or rapes or murders or exploitation of the weaker or misuse of power or cheat or fraud or corruption etc. as there is no strong reason to stop them from such an act.

One of the Attributes of Allah *subhan wa taala* is that He is Just. He is the most Just and is not unjust in the least bit. Reason demands that Allah being Just, punishes the oppressor, compensates the

[40] empty

oppressed, reward the believer & righteous and punish the disbeliever. This cannot happen in this world, for this is an examination[41] and during an examination everyone should be free. Therefore this life is neither suitable for the real rewards nor for real punishment. What benefit is a reward which a man gets after doing selfless service for 60 or 70 years when he can't really enjoy them at that age? And what punishment are you going to give to a person who killed thousands of innocents? Punish him once! Will that be true compensation for the thousands he killed and millions of lives that get destroyed because of that?

Allah out of His complete knowledge decreed 'Day of Judgement(Qiyamah)' to give us our due, to be fully Just and show His great Mercy. Allah promised that *Qiyamah* will take place and that Paradise and Hell are the place of destination. And who is more truthful in his promise than Allah?? None.

Imaan on *Akhirah* is essential. A person cannot become a Muslim till he has **firm** *Imaan on Akhirah* i.e on *Qiyamah(*Resurrection and Day of Judgment) and on the life without end in Paradise(Jannah) or Hell(Jahannum). *Imaan(belief)* on this fundamental principle brings God consciousness in ones life and hence he does not cheat or rob even if no one sees him, for he knows that Allah is all-watching and that he is going to return to Allah sooner or later.

It reminds us of accountability that I am responsible for each and every action of mine and will have to answer about my actions, my way of living, how and what I earned, how and what I spent, how I used my skills, what did I spent my life for etc. It also helps a person to do things only for the sake of Allah, seeking His reward and pleasure alone. Therefore a true Muslim makes real sacrifices and

[41] Quran Chp 67 Verse 2

does selfless services without seeking any reward, money, fame, honour etc. in return from the people.

Description of Paradise and Hell

Paradise is truth and Hell is truth. Both of them cannot be described in words for there is no comparison of them to the life of this world. As this life is too short while life of hereafter is forever with no end.

To give an idea what paradise is, try to imagine the best luxuries, sceneries, greenery etc. you can imagine or that you have seen AND then know that all these put together is nothing compared to an square feet area of paradise!!![42] So is the case of Hell, a man who spend his entire life in luxuries without knowing or experiencing what sorrow means will forget even the meaning of luxury by having just a glimpse of Hell!!!

All the luxuries of this world looks scrap(*bhangar hai/feeki lagti hai*) to the luxuries of Paradise, and all the pain or sufferings of this world looks comfort in comparison to the punishment of Hell. Paradise is much better than what we can imagine and Hell fire is much worse than what we can imagine.

I tried to describe Paradise and Hell in these few words to keep the discussion short and give you an idea in few words. For have proper understanding read Chp 56, 55 etc. of the Quran.

One's ego and arrogance to accept the authority of Allah does not make *Akhirah* as false.

Just because some people deny *Akhirah* does not make it false. The argument that no one came back, has no ground to stand! Why don't you use simple logic? This life is an examination, is there any

[42] Read Sahih Bukhari Vol 6 H 302

examination in the world where those who had left the examination hall allowed to re-enter the exam hall to rewrite his paper or to inform others? Then why do we present such a lame argument regarding *Akhirah*?

Allah and His Messenger, Muhammad(s.a.w) are more trustful than the entire humans. So if you believe in Allah and that Muhammad(s.a.w) is messenger, then know that they have informed about it. If you really want to check their statements then check what is in your capacity, for e.g. when Quran says earth is spherical in shape then verify it, and when you reach the conclusion that this is correct then the natural inference is all other statements which are beyond your capacity to verify are also correct.

Moreover it's not always necessary that we see and touch everything to confirm its existence. For e.g. Man hasn't seen electrons and protons but with analysis and observation we concluded their existence. Similarly <u>for a common man</u> concepts like motion of earth etc. are hard to believe but we trust scientists who have observed that through telescopes, space shuttles and satellites etc. Why? Because we trust them as they are more knowledgeable than us in that particular field.

Then **<u>know that Allah is more knowledgeable and accurate in every aspect of His creation</u>**.

Does He who created not know, while He is the Subtle,
the Acquainted?
Quran Chp 67 Verse 14

And specially when the matter is of hereafter only Allah and His Messenger can inform, for they alone know about it. No scientist, no astronaut, no researcher can speak on it for they are as ignorant as a common man concerning it or even more. Remember my dear

brother/sister, that **the best scientists can and do make errors, the judges can and do give wrong decisions , the leaders can and do mislead, your relatives can and do deceive you, your spouse may cheat <u>but never ever</u> can Allah or His Messenger lie**.

O Allah!! I believe in you and your Messenger Muhammad(s.a.w.).

<u>Description of *Qiyamah* in the Quran</u>

The day Qiyamah occurs, that day will be very hard for the rejecters! That day will be very tough and harsh such that it cannot be described in words. Quran gives us an idea about that day and how man will react to it. I am quoting some verses of Quran regarding that day and also request you to read chapters 75, 69, 81 & 82 of the Quran. Quranic verses must be read again and again pondering over its meaning to understand and appreciate it better.

O mankind, fear your Lord and fear a Day when no father will avail his son, nor will a son avail his father at all. Indeed, the promise of Allah is truth, so let not the worldly life delude you and be not deceived about Allah by the Deceiver [i.e., Satan]. Quran Chp 31 Verse 33

10. And no friend will ask [anything of] a friend,
11. They will be shown each other. The criminal will wish that he could be ransomed from the punishment of that Day by his children
12. And his wife and his brother
13. And his nearest kindred who shelter him
14. And whoever is on earth entirely [so] then it could save him. Quran Chp 70 Verse 10-14

33. But when there comes the Deafening Blast[43]
34. On the Day a man will flee from his brother
35. And his mother and his father
36. And his wife and his children,
37. For every man, that Day, will be a matter adequate for him.[44]
38. [Some] faces, that Day, will be bright –
39. Laughing, rejoicing at good news.
40. And [other] faces, that Day, will have upon them dust.
41. Blackness will cover them.
42. Those are the disbelievers, the wicked ones.
Quran Chp 80 Verse 33-42

Qiyamah and life after death are reality. Every true Messenger of Allah(God) reminded and warned us about it. Allah and His Messengers don't joke or tell lie. It's for us to take heed and prepare ourselves and save our families and friends. Paradise(Jannat) or Hell(Jahannum); its all your choice! That day not a single person will be wronged, each person will achieve what it has earned for itself. Frustration and regret(of the evil doers) on that day will be of no use and Happiness and satisfaction(of the believers) will have no bounds. *Actual life is the life hereafter. Prepare for the never ending life!!* [45]

Imaan in Taqdeer

Taqdeer is a vast concept covering many aspects. *Taqdeer* includes that everything is known to Allah; things of the past, present and future. 'Time' is a limiting factor for Man and not for Allah. Allah's knowledge extends over all things and all aspects of His creation. He knows our past as well as future with all its exact details.

[43] The piercing blast of the Horn which signals resurrection
[44] i.e., to occupy him. He will be concerned only with himself, thus forgetting all others.
[45] For further details about Akhirah read Quran Chapters 69, 75, 77, 78 etc.

Taqdeer also includes that everything good or bad happens by the **permission** of Allah(God), and it is predetermined. Before Allah created the earth, He decreed everything about the creation like where a person will born, what and how a person will earn, in which land will he die etc. Allah tests His slaves by both good and bad conditions for this life is a test. A sincere believer will submit to Allah's decision and won't complain for any harm or loss that befalls him, whether it be say the death of his near one or some trouble in life. A believer submits to Allah's will for he knows that God is the best planner. His decision is best for us even though temporarily we may not be able to understand the wisdom behind such thing.

Belief in *taqdeer* has great practical applications and positive effects on society. It means that since everything happens as per the will of Allah you don't need to panic or give up your hopes. You don't believe in superstitions or in good or bad luck and just take everything positively; as whenever something good or bad befalls you it is **either** a reward **or** a punishment **or** a test. Therefore a true Muslim don't take lucks or charms for bringing good luck neither he curses time or any individual for any misfortune that may befall. A Muslim[46]neither allow himself to be exploited and looted by *tantriks*, *babas* and so called godmen nor do a Muslim family burns the daughter in law for bringing misfortune or kill innocent women in name of being witches. A believer also does not waste money and other resources on stones or idols or dead people's tombs so that it may bring good fortune. We don't believe in superstitions but wholly submit to His decision and face the difficult times with full courage and conviction as per the guidance of Allah. Neither we disbelieve in Him nor do we become arrogant when we receive any goodness. In every situation we praise and thank Allah.

[46] Muslim means a person who submits wholly to Allah's will/command

Your family, life span, your mode of living and earning etc. are all those things on which man has no control but still many a times he commits such acts which are not only harmful to himself but to the society as well, thinking he can change or have control on them. For e.g. man indulges or adopt mal-practices in business etc. thinking that will increase his income/profits. But the point we are reminded is that when God has ordained 100 Rupees in your *taqdeer* you will receive it whether you choose the right path or wrong path. All you need to is try using all lawful means. If you think that you have earned more because of your corrupt practices then this is your great misconception!! Because Allah gave you freedom of decision(and efforts) and not of results and you cannot change results. Keeping this in mind always strive on the right path and for the right cause because that is a man's duty.

Also refer to the hadees mentioned under the heading 'If Allah is pleased with you are successful otherwise failure'.

Learning about Islam is a must

Islam is the law revealed by Allah as a path for all humans to follow. And hence in Islam alone lies the real success. In it is the answer for all your questions. ***'Laa ila ha il lal lah'*** 'There is no one worthy of worship, no one worthy of absolute obedience, no one worthy of full love, no one to whom belong true respect & all praise **except to Allah**'; and Islam is the name of submitting wholly to Allah. This whole statement is true to its core. So you cannot take Islam lightly and you must study Islam carefully. If you are satisfied about its correctness then accept it. Rejecting it without analysing it is destructive for your own self.

The 5 pillars of Islam

The base of Islam lies on 5 pillars which are as follows:

1. ***'Shahadah'****:* 'Shahadah' means bearing witness or giving testimony. The testimony is '*La ilaha illallah muhammadur rasool Allah' 'There is no God except Allah and Muhammad(s.a.w.) is the Messenger of Allah'*. It means testifying to the Oneness of Allah and believing in all His attributes(qualities) which He has described about Himself in the Quran and those which we come to know through Hadees. It means that we accept Allah's authority over us. We also testify that Muhammad(s.a.w) is the servant and Messenger of Allah.

2. ***'Salah'****:* Salah is the five daily prayer(namaz) prescribed for believers. In a 24 hour day we turn to Allah at least 5 times which acts as a reminder for us. Salah helps us to maintain our personal connection with Allah our creator, it reminds us of our real purpose and act as comforting medium from the disturbances and troubles of our life. It is also a daily practical demonstration of equality of all humans before Allah. Besides these there are numerous other benefits as well.

3. ***'Sawm'****:* Sawm means fasting. In Islam fasting for one month in a year is prescribed for all the believers. This month is known as 'Ramazan'. During a 'sawm' i.e. 'fast' a believer keeps himself away from food, water, carnal desires[47] and all forms of sins from dusk to dawn[48].

   Fasting for one full month acts as training, it trains you to control yourself, to adopt righteousness and avoid sins. If you

[47] i.e. sexual relation with spouse(wife/husband)

[48] From the **first ray of light** in morning till sun sets in evening

can follow the path of piety & avoid sinning for e.g. backbiting, smoking etc. for a month then you can easily avoid all that for the whole year.

This month helps you to establish a personal connection with Allah. It develops God-consciousness, that Allah is ever watching you. Because when a person is fasting he may eat or drink secretly and may act as though he is fasting but a believer never does that. Why? Because he knows that even if no human is watching him/her but Allah is ever-watching. It also teaches that actions must be done to please Allah and not for show-off.

4. ***Zakah**: '*Zakah' is the minimum amount of money which one must compulsorily spend as charity once in every lunar year. It is imposed on those who have savings which are more than the specified limit. Its rate 2.5%. It is spend on poor(with first preference to the poor relatives and neighbors) and on other social works.

5. ***Hajj**:* Hajj is the annual pilgrimage for which believers from across the world come to Makkah. It is compulsory on every Muslim who have the means to perform it once in his lifetime.

   Hajj is the symbol 'Unity' in its essence, for it symbolises that the Lord of all humans is One, Allah; the centre of all the people is One, Kabah[49]; that all men are equal before Allah wearing same clothes and performing same duties.

[49] Which is the first masjid of the world

For whom is Islam?

Islam is meant for each and every human being. It is **the only** universally applicable system, in simple terms it is for:-

1. All humans
2. Living in any part of the world
3. For all times to come; meaning for those who are present and also for those humans who will come till the end of this world

Allah is the Lord of the Worlds, the Only Creator of all Humans. Muhammad (s.a.w) is the only guide for mankind; Quran is final law & guidance for all men. Islam is the only complete way of life, the only path that receives Allah's approval.

Islam is not just universal but it also appeals to all humans of every age and of every time. In following the way shown by Allah only lies our success and prosperity of both the worlds. Knowing all these it's very clear that Islam is for each and every individual on earth. Islam is for YOU.

And whoever desires other than Islam as religion – never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers. (Quran Chp 3 Verse 85)

Which books must be studied for learning Islam?

To learn any subject we must refer to its core and authentic books. When one appears for any examination he refers to the syllabus prescribed by the University. Similarly, for learning Islam you must refer to its core books and not those written by biased writers(seeking material gains) who want to present a false image of Islam nor can one look to the practices of Muslims to know what

Islam teaches for its not necessary that what Muslims follow is Islam.[50]

So which books should one refer to learn about Islam? In Islam the sources are clearly defined, whether a person is Muslim or non-Muslim, he has to refer to same set of books. They are:

- **Quran**: Quran is the **literal word of Allah** which was revealed to last Prophet Muhammad(*sallal lahu alaih wa sallam*). It was written down during the time of Prophet itself as and when the particular portion was revealed. Not a single word of it has been changed from the time it was revealed. Quran is the source of all guidance and carries the **highest authority** as it is the word of Allah. This book is free from any defect as mistake is a feature of man and not Allah. At the most you may find translation mistakes, which is done by humans as Quran is in 'Arabic' language.
- **Books of Hadees:** Books of *'hadees'* contains the teachings of the Prophet. It includes:
    1. What the Prophet did
    2. What he commanded and
    3. What he approved of[51]

In short books of *hadees* contain all the aspects of the Messenger Muhammad's life. Quran and *hadees* are clearly marked in Islam. Quran is word of Allah and *hadees* of His Messenger. They both form the source of guidance in Islam.

[50] As what Muslims of a particular place do may be different from Muslims living in other parts of the world. These practices may be because of their cultural or historical background or may have evolved due to environment or situation they are in and not necessarily Islam.

[51] What he saw happening in front of him but didn't forbade it (As the Prophet won't allow a thing which is forbidden in Islam)

Quran was written and thus preserved during the life of the Prophet itself. The Prophet warned his followers how previous messages were lost. Therefore his companions took utmost care to preserve the message of 'Islam'.

Most of the *hadees* were collected and written after the death of the Prophet. To ensure that no one could falsely attribute anything to Prophet the science of verifying "*hadees*" was developed. The chain of narrators between Prophet and collectors of *hadees* were well known and all of them were examined. Each one of them had to pass a strict test so as to regard the *hadees* they are narrating as authentic. Thus only reliable *hadees* were regarded as authentic called as *sahih* in Arabic. In Islam the source of legislation and guidance are only Quran and ***Hadees(*Only *sahih*** i.e. proved and thus authentic).

Some of the well known books of hadees are Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Tirmizih, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawood, Nisai, Musnad Ahmed, Hakim, Sahih Al Jameh etc.

Both well preserved

The core of Islamic guidance i.e. Quran and Hadees both are well preserved and there is no chance of error or omission in them. This fact is proclaimed not only by Muslims but even by Fair Non-Muslim researchers who studied them.

Quran-A living Miracle

Quran is the last and final message of Allah(God) for complete humanity. Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w) as the ultimate, final, complete and up to date **constitution for the whole world**. Quran is the book of everlasting guidance.

Quran is a living miracle from Allah for everyone to experience and verify. Quran is the proof of Islam being the truth; it is the identity card of genuineness of the Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w). If any person wants to verify Islam or its Prophet he must read Quran.

This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah[52]
Quran Chp 2 V 2

Amazing! If you open Quran you will find Chapter 2 on the second page itself. So in the beginning itself i.e. Quran Chapter 2 Verse 2, it says *there is no doubt in this book*. You must have read many books but have you ever come across any book which says there is no doubt or error in it that too as a challenge in the opening pages. Instead every book says that "We have taken due care to avoid any mistakes or errors but still if you find any fault in it then please inform us." But here is the book Quran, which not only claims this but says this is surely guidance and challenges mankind that to point out a single error in Quran if you are truthful.

"Do they not consider the Quran carefully? Had it been from other than Allah(God), they would surely have found therein many a contradiction" Quran Chp 4 V 82

Challenge upon challenge! First that there is no doubt in it and second to find any contradiction or fault in the Quran and if you are unable to then know that this book is surely from Allah Almighty. If these were not enough as a proof of its divinity, Allah again challenges you

[52] Literally for those who have *taqwa* meaning for those who are righteous, have piety, have fear and love of Allah and who take great care to avoid His displeasure.

And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down [i.e., the Quran] upon Our Servant [i.e., Prophet Muhammad], then produce a surah(chapter) the like thereof and call upon your witnesses [i.e., supporters] other than Allah, if you should be truthful. But if you do not – and of surety you can not – then fear the Fire, whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers.
Quran Chp 2 V 23-24

The above test is impossible to pass, instead the Quran itself says that ***"and of surety you can not..."*** such a claim can be made by none except Allah.(of course the challenge is to produce a surah(chapter) in Arabic, the language in which Quran was revealed). These are some of the many tests which Quran itself points to verify the genuineness of Quran.

Quran is a practical book with attainable objectives and guaranteed results. It is for all humans from the Lord of the Worlds. Won't you read the book which raises your anticipation, asks you challenge it and accept it only after analysing it?

Shaitaan your avowed enemy

When Allah created man and honoured him with knowledge & position, *shaitaan* which is one the various creations of Allah, became jealous of man and took man as his enemy. He vowed to disrobe man from the honour bestowed on him and to carry him to hell. So the Quran declared that *Shaitan* and whosoever follows him will be thrown in Hell fire.

With every person there are Angels[53] and *Shaitaan*. Angels call upon the person to obedience towards Allah while *shaitaan* calls to disobedience. *Shaitan* has **no power over us except of whispering**, he whispers thoughts and suggestions in our hearts. And that is why

[53] We have discussed earlier about angels under the heading *Imaan*-the belief system of Islam

shaitan is so dangerous because we don't see him. When a man suggests you something, you know who is suggesting you and whether that is right or wrong but when *shaitaan* suggests you something, he presents you as your well wisher. He guides you to hell while showing as if he is suggesting something good for you. *Shaitan* does not directly suggest you to do murder or robbery but he suggests you something more dangerous and that is disobedience to Allah, your God and Creator, if only you understand its seriousness.

Since, *shaitaan* is your enemy, he will never sit calmly if you try to learn about Allah, Islam or the Messenger Muhammad(s.a.w). He will try to cast all types of doubts and fears in your mind. He will suggest everything to stop you learning about Islam or to follow Islam[54]. So don't get defeated by your enemy, *shaitan* and never give up learning Islam.

Evil suggestions come not just from *shaitan* but even from other men. We must seek Allah's protection from *shaitan* and his followers. Protect yourself from your hidden enemy, *shaitan*.

Islam- A problem or a solution?

If you have recognized Allah and His Messenger, then know Islam is the path they have shown. How can Islam ever be a problem? Islam is the solution; it has answer to all the problems of humankind. All we need to do is learn Islam and follow it. Islam is complete way of life and eliminates problems from its root. This topic needs separate discussion.

[54] Common whispers from shaitan to stop you from learning Islam are: You don't have time right now as you are busy(for delaying is as good as cancelling), What do you have to do by learning Islam etc.

If Islam is truth then why Allah did not made everyone a Muslim?

The Prophet informed us "Every child is a born on nature (i.e. Islam)" i.e. every child is a Muslim. I would like to remind you, the word 'Muslim' means one who submits himself wholly to Allah's will and hence every child is born a Muslim; it's his/her parents who make the child a Christian, a Jew or whatever.

So the question can be why did Allah make us born in Muslim and Non-Muslim families? For obvious reasons as this life is a test and therefore everyone is given full freedom. Just as Allah provides food and other needs to a Muslim, He also provides it that to a Non-Muslim. So naturally children will be born every where. You can't say that Allah made you a Non-Muslim. He just made us born in Muslim or Non-Muslim families. We as an individual have full freedom to choose obedience or disobedience.

For the question why He made you born in a Non-Muslim family, I would say it could be that those who were inherently good were born in Muslim families, while those who were inherently good as well as courageous enough that they can accept Islam against all odds were born in Non-Muslim families[55]. So just because you were born in a Non-Muslim family does not mean that Allah wants you to live as such, it instead means that Allah loves you more and want to honour you more, that Allah knows you are more courageous and can go against everyone to follow and obey your Lord. So if you like Islam from your heart than don't fear the world, accept and follow it. *Insha-Allah* Allah will open your path ways and will ease your difficulties.

[55] This is my personal logic. Allah knows best for man's understanding is limited.

This life is a test, an examination for to see who is obedient to Allah and who is disobedient. What is the meaning of test if one is forced to write the correct answer? Allah does not force anyone to obey Him or to accept Islam.

And if Allah had willed, He could have made you [of] one religion, but He causes to stray whom He wills and guides whom He wills[56]. And you will surely be questioned about what you used to do. Quran Chp 16 V 93[57]

It's very easy for Allah to make everyone a believer but then where will be the examination? Similarly if Allah had punished us for our error or sins then no person would have been left on earth.

And if Allah were to impose blame on the people for their wrongdoing, He would not have left upon it [i.e., the earth] any creature, but He defers them for a specified term. And when their term has come, they will not remain behind an hour, nor will they precede [it]. Quran Chp 16 V 61

This life is not conclusive, success and failure in this life is all temporary. Allah gave us intellect to make an informed choice, to know the consequences of our actions and that we submit to His will with willing submission. This is the test and those who pass it will achieve the real success.

Are all religions not same?

People are very confused or rather they have been made confused by the religious leaders about religion. The common saying is that "all religions are same" or some say 'I am not so religious and don't want to learn anything' while others share that "We are on different paths

[56] According to His knowledge of each soul's preference.
[57] Also see Quran Chp 16 V 9

but our destination is same. All religions lead to God." Thus the interpretation they give is that following any religion is right. What! Are we to follow even man made religions or changes![58]".

My dear brother/sister 'Don't be under this misconception that all are same'. How stupid will it sound if I sitting in Nagpur say that 'All roads lead to Delhi!'? This is absolutely wrong statement, as one path may lead to Kerala, the second to Mumbai, the other to Kolkata and the last one to Delhi. So the correct path will depend upon what your destination is. Then why this common sense is not used when it comes to religion? Truth is clear and distinct from falsehood. There is always only one correct formula, only one path to Paradise. Anything other than that is misguidance and its end is hell.

Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favour, not of
those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.[59]

But you may argue that this is for maintaining **harmony** in the society. Well, this is **hypocrisy** and not harmony. You are cheating and deceiving the common man by such statements. The road that leads to **heaven**(paradise) is not the same that leads to **hell**. There has to be only one right way and you must search for it yourself. Further when people follow different paths both right and wrong then clashes will occur, conflict of interest will arise and thus trouble is bound to arise and this artificial harmony will disappear.

Just imagine, If a child gets lost at a busy place, say Mumbai Railway Station and then calls her mother for help, will the mother say 'select

[58] Specially in India as every Godman makes his own religion like dera saccha sauda, Rajneesh, satya sai baba who died recently, asaraam and every other cheat creates a new religion, calls himself god and exploits people, will you accept these even as a religion leave aside god!!
[59] Quran Chp 1 V 6-7

the path which any group of people are following as all paths leads to home'? For if she says any one particular path then other people who are following other paths will feel offended. Will a mother confuse her child? No, she will inform the correct and straight way for her child and will contact the police and near relatives to guide her child. Our Lord Allah loves us seventy times more than a mother loves her child.[60] Will He confuse us by making so many religions or paths? Rather Allah made only one religion which is 'to submit wholly to Allah' which in Arabic means Islam. So Islam means to submit to Allah's will and one who does that is called a Muslim. Just as the child will surely get lost if he does not follow his mother's direction so shall we get lost if we don't follow the divine guidance.

And, [moreover], this is My path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may become righteous. Quran Chp 6 V 153

Various verses in Quran speak about that One path, the one guidance etc. in Quran

Chapter 1 Verses 5-7
Chapter 3 Verses 19
Chapter 3 Verses 85
Chapter 31 Verses 20-22
Chapter 43 Verses 64
Chapter 36 Verses 61
Chapter 5 Verses 3
Chapter 3 Verses 32
Chapter 2 Verses 2-5
Chapter 2 Verses 38 and at numerous other places

[60] Hadees

Just as Truth and falsehood cannot be same, so is goodness and evil, light and darkness, belief and superstitions for they are all opposites, and can't remain together. Similarly there is only one true path without any deviation in it.

My parents or friends will feel bad or abandon me

We discussed earlier in the book[61] whether we should check what we are following in the name of religion. When we sincerely seek guidance from our Creator, He will surely guide us to His path. And when He has shown us the true way, made us understand our purpose and destination then it's obligatory[62] upon us to follow that path.

When a person decides to follow Allah's guidance then *shaitan*, our enemy, try to cast various fears and doubts in our mind to stop us from following truth. One of *shaitan's* whispers is 'if I accept Islam my parents will feel hurt or my friends will boycott me etc.' These are all whispers and nothing of this sort will happen if your family, friends and relatives really love you. And even if they oppose your decision then the answer is that a believer's top priority is his Maker and Provider, Allah who has no partners. If by following Allah's guidance people get angry with you, you have really lost nothing while you have gained the greatest blessing which is Allah's pleasure(by your submission). While if you choose to disobey your lord to please people, remember that people will never become pleased with you while Allah will be displeased with you.[63]

Opposition should not stop a person from following the right path. And why should someone else dictate for you what you should follow

[61] Under the heading "Can religion be questioned?"
[62] Compulsory, binding, incumbent
[63] Quran Chp 39 V 7

and what not. Every normal person has enough wisdom and intelligence **to know** who is his/her Lord and what does He command. Hence when a person recognizes his/her Lord then nothing should stop him/her from submitting to God.

Moreover Islam does not say to abandon your parents, relatives, spouse or children if you have accepted Islam. Rather *Quran* and *Hadees* demands **a believer** to be more loving, caring and humane towards everyone especially to parents and relatives **even if they are non-muslims**.[64]

And if anyone rejects the guidance for the sake of any person be it parents, relatives, friends, so called "religious" gurus or in the fake name of nationalism etc. then this may give you some sort of material benefit in this world, but who will save you on the Day of Judgement(Qiyamah)? That Day they won't come to save you, for they themselves will be in punishment. On that Day a person won't be allowed to blame anyone else for his disbelief for ultimate decision was his/her own. Each soul will carry its own burden.

10. And no friend will ask [anything of] a friend,
11. They will be shown each other. The criminal will wish that he could be ransomed from the punishment of that Day by his children
12. And his wife and his brother
13. And his nearest kindred who shelter him
14. And whoever is on earth entirely [so] then it could save him.
Quran Chp 70 Verse 10-14

"…….Close friends, that Day, will be enemies to each other, except for the righteous……." Quran Chp 43 V 66-80

Accept or deny; it's only your decision.

[64] Quran Chp 6 V 151-153

But Muslims are not good

There is another belief among general people that though Islam is best but Muslims are not as good, or rather say they are bad. There are 3 points to consider on this issue. Firstly Muslims are not bad, the way they are shown or represented. Media is playing a negative role when it comes to Muslims or Islam. Any **odd** or exceptional activity in **any part** of the world **by any Muslim whether** proved **or just accused** gets highlighted and reported in the whole world as if this is normal activity for Muslims or as if Islam promotes or teaches its adherents to do such. And on the other hand if the person is a Non-Muslim then majority of times such activities do not even get reported. This is unfair and biased behaviour on part of media.

Secondly even if a Muslim does some wrong or is involved in some crime, it does not mean all Muslims are such or that Islam teaches so. A single Muslim or a single incident does not represent Islam. There are ignorant or evil people in every community so why Muslims are singled out? I ask you, if a doctor commits some crime or a police officer takes bribe or a soldier betrays his country, does that mean every doctor, police officer or soldiers are such? Will that stop you from becoming a doctor or officer? Islam is what Quran and hadees teaches. If a person is a Muslim or who wants to become a Muslim must follow Quran and hadees.

Lastly, **someone else disobedience does not give you the right to disobey** or reject guidance or to deny Allah and His Messenger. This is not an excuse. You are accountable for your own self and I am for myself. One doesn't have control over anyone except his own self, so he must watch his own actions. Allah says

That was a nation which has passed on. It will have [the consequence of] what it earned, and you will have what you have earned. And you will not be asked about what they used to do.
Quran Chp 2 V 134 and also at Quran Chp 2 V 141

No bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Quran Chp 53 V 38

Still …Muslims are best as a community

Even after so much bad portrayal of Islam and Muslims, the one who carefully observes Muslims will find that they are best people on earth. To have an example just have a look on some of these broad qualities which by and large is found in every Muslim community of various origins and cultures, living in different parts of the world:

- ✓ **God conscious**: Muslims are most God conscious community in the world. They pray 5 times a day, observe the limits set by religion, practice righteousness, promotes good conduct and forbid evil.
- ✓ **Brotherhood & equality**: When it comes to Brotherhood there is no competition of Muslims. Every Muslim enjoys same treatment irrespective of his wealth or lineage. **There is no caste system in Islam** nor is anyone superior to other on any basis whether of nationality, race, colour or gender. Sharing, caring and brotherhood are evident qualities of Muslim society. Muslims don't discriminate and treat everyone with fairness and justice.
- ✓ **Charity**: It is well known that Muslims are most charitable community in the world. For the poor, the orphans and widows, for the deprived, the less privileged, for those in trouble, for those who are suffering as a result of disasters or wars or whatever, if any community that comes forward with greatest of support, relief, food, money and prayers, they are Muslims.
- ✓ **For keeping firm the bonds of families**: There is so much emphasis in Islam on maintaining ties of blood. First comes caring of parents. Parents, especially mothers enjoy a

prominent position in Islam. A Muslim shows utmost respect, love and affection to parents especially when they reach old age to the extent that he/she does not even say *uff*[65] to them. **There is no concept of old age homes in a Muslim society**.

Marriage is considered a holy affair in Islam. Husband and wife are blessing and adornment for each other. Monasticism has no place in Islam. Children are gift from Allah, loving children and giving them the best education which makes them differentiate between right and wrong is a duty of all parents. Loving, visiting and caring about relatives (even if they don't respond in same manner) is a must in Islam and a great rewarding action while breaking the ties of blood is a great sin. Thus, family enjoy a prominent place in Muslim society.

- ✓ I**ntoxicants**(drugs and alcohol) free & gambling free society: When the world is still struggling to free the society from alcohol, drugs, gambling and other forms of evil, Islam achieved this task 1450 years back. Islam prohibited all form of intoxicants and called alcohol as the 'mother of all evils'. Everyday thousands of lives get destroyed due to intoxicants and its effects like accidents and crimes committed under its influence. Muslims, Alhamdulillah, all praise be to Allah, are free from this evil and stands as an example to imitate.
- ✓ Most respectful **towards women**: Women live most dignified life in a Muslim society though a different impression has been created by media. She commands respect, love and care in all her roles whether as a mother, wife, sister, daughter, aunt etc. Islam freed her from economic responsibility. Her father, husband, brother or son shall fulfil her economic needs and if not them then the Muslim society or the Islamic State. In a truly Muslim society a widow or an

[65] The slightest expression of disrespect or showing that you are fed up

orphan or any needy women need not even step outside her home to fulfil her needs. How much respect a woman commands in Muslim society can be made out from the fact a Muslim is ready to protect the honour of even a (number one) stranger and (number two) a Non-Muslim woman at the cost of one's own life!

- ✓ Most **Modest** society: Modesty and bashfulness are the jewels of Muslim society. There is no place for immodesty, nudity, porn or prostitution and related evils in a Muslim society. When parents, social thinkers, governments and society at large are worrying about spread of immorality, growing crimes against women, decaying of moral values etc., there is only one solution, Islam.
- ✓ **Least corrupt**: Muslims are known for sticking to their principles even in the most testing times. Muslims are least corrupt people as a whole. There may be few exceptions but as a whole Muslims are least corrupt, trustworthy and honest.
- ✓ **Hospitality**: Known for generosity and hospitality of guests. Even a poor Muslim will share the only bread he has with anyone who asks for it or with the guests.
- ✓ **Least suicide rate**: Suicides in Muslim community are rarely heard of. A good Muslim who has even little knowledge of Islam will never commit suicide. This is because of the blessings of Islam by which a Muslim knows his purpose & thus he uses his life fruitfully. A Muslim society does not leave an individual in his/her difficult times and stands by their side. A Muslim is psychologically peaceful and stable. These and many other factors ensure that suicide remains an alien thing for them.

  Besides there are numerous other qualities on which we can keep on discussing like Muslims are of most helpful nature,

the divorce rate among Muslims is very low compared to other communities, evil practices of untouchability, of dowry, superstitions, human sacrifice etc. are **never ever** heard of in Muslim world. Further Muslims are known for keeping their word and fulfilling their promises. My point is not to discuss all those matters but to show that Muslims are best compared to others and this is not out of their own good but because of Islam, Islam which is the way shown by Allah.

Some teachings of Islam-humanity at its intensity, its peak, a glimpse

Some people say that they believe in humanity. To them I say show me any system, any law or any religion which is more humane than Islam. Islam is far superior than any thing that humans could imagine of, forget of making some new system in the name of humanity. Moreover, *Deen* is name of submitting to creator and not in making new religions.

Islam is humanity at its intensity; it is the peak of kindness and brotherhood. Just look at some of its teachings which represent just a glimpse of Islam.

Allah says "*O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is he who has most taqwa*[66]*. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted".*

Quran Chp 49 V 13

To increase in honour in the sight of Allah, to gain His nearness what one need is *taqwa*[64]. The more the *taqwa* of a person the dearer he is

[66] *The most righteous of you,* consciousness *and fear of Allah, piety and righteousness.*

to Allah. Thus Islam derecognized all forms of false criteria on which people compete.

Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul[67] or for corruption [done] in the land[68] – it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind entirely.
Quran Chp 5 Verse 32

Some of the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) are

"There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, or of a non-Arab over a Arab, of a white over a black or of a black over a white except through taqwa (i.e. piety, God consciousness, righteousness). Mankind is all Adam's children and Adam was created from dust." [69]

This further clarifies the position of Islam on brotherhood and equality. There is no place for racism in Islam.

"O people! Fear Allah concerning women. You have taken them only as a trust from Allah and you have their enjoyment only by His permission. Do treat your women well and be kind to them, for they are your partners and committed helpers. You have your rights over your wives and they have rights over you."[67]

"Any wrongdoer does not wrong another except himself. So, let no one of you be blamed for the acts of his father or his son." [67]

"One who strives to help the widow and poor is like one who strives in the way of Allah"[70]

[67] i.e., in legal retribution for murder
[68] i.e., that requiring the death penalty.
[69] The Sermon which the Prophet gave during Hajj, in the year 10 A.H
[70] Sahih *Bukhari and* Sahih *Muslim*

'He who eats his fill while his neighbour goes without food is not a believer'.

'The truthful and trustworthy businessman is associated with the prophets, the saints, and the martyrs'.

'Powerful is not he who knocks the other down, indeed powerful is he who controls himself in a fit of anger'.[71]

'Allah does not judge according to your bodies and appearances but He scans your hearts and looks into your deeds'.

The Prophet also said "'Help your brother, whether he is oppressed or oppressor'. His companions asked 'We understand helping the oppressed but how can we help the oppressor?' the Prophet replied 'By stopping him from oppression. That will be your help for him'."

This is the beauty of Islam. In Islam all persons are equal. No one is discriminated on the basis of his/her nationality, race or colour. There is no caste system in Islam. Surnames in Islam describe our family lineage and not our social status. In Islam the son of a labourer may become the leader of the Islamic state based on his capability, knowledge and righteousness while the son of the ruler if he is not capable of, may not even be allowed the post of an Imam[72] of a small masjid. Similarly a New-Muslim[73] may become the most sought after *aalim*[74] and there are numerous living examples to this fact. This is Islam simple and sweet.

[71] Sahih Bukhari Vol 8 H 135
[72] Imam is the person who leads people during prayers i.e. Salaah
[73] A person who has recently accepted Islam
[74] Religious scholar

In short Islam means …

151. Say, "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited to you. [He commands] ***that you not associate anything with Him****, and to parents, good treatment, and do not kill your children out of poverty; We will provide for you and them. And do not approach immoralities – what is apparent of them and what is concealed. And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed] except by [legal] right. This has He instructed you that you may use reason."*

152. And do not approach the orphan's property except in a way that is best [i.e., intending improvement] until he reaches maturity. And give full measure and weight in justice. We do not charge any soul except [with that within] its capacity. And when you speak [i.e., testify], be just, even if [it concerns] a near relative. And the covenant of Allah fulfill. This has He instructed you that you may remember.

153. And, [moreover], this is My path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may become righteous.

Quran Chp 6 Verse 151-153

From whom are you running away?

I would like to remind you that death is not the end; instead it's the beginning of never ending life. Our *Imaan*(faith) **and** righteous deeds will make us enter Paradise which means success, relief, peace, satisfaction and enjoyment for ever. Similarly disbelief and rejection of Allah(God) and His messenger will make us enter Hell i.e. punishment, pain, dissatisfaction, suffering for ever. Dear, think when we can't endure pain, burns, heat etc. in this life for few minutes then how can we endure it in Hell for ever?

Remember, we all will be gathered before Allah(God) on the Day of Judgment and we will be accountable before Him for our actions. So my dear friend, whosoever accepts Allah(God) as His creator and Lord, worships none but Him, obeys His Last Messenger Muhammad(s.a.w) opens the gate of success for himself in this world as well as in the **real** life to come.

If you have realized the truth, then do not deceive yourself by delaying to accept this fact. Don't delay for any moment can be our last moment. Submit to your Lord and submission is called Islam. So accept it and begin; for you will slowly and steadily learn and practise. And if you are not really satisfied about the genuineness of Islam then learn more about it so that you can come to some firm conclusion. **But please**…please don't run away from truth, for in this way you will be deceiving your own self. From whom are you running away? You can run from me, you can run from the person who gave you this book, but can you run from **The One** who created you? Even if you try to, you can't. For no one has escaped death till now and you will return to your God, Allah alone. And at that time what reason or excuse will you be able to give for not following His guidance?

…. Then who is more unjust than one who denies the verses of Allah and turns away from them? We will recompense those who turn away from Our verses with the worst of punishment for their having turned away. Quran Chp 6 Verse 157

If you want to learn more read Quran and Hadees. Freely discuss and tell what hinders you. Contact, visit or call your nearest Islamic centre.

Islam a gift for you…..

The **key to enter Paradise** is *"ash-hadu al laa ilaha ill lallah wa ash hadu anna Muhammadur rasool Allah*" that is to say "I testify that there is no god but Allah(God) and I testify that Muhammad(s.a.w) is His Messenger and servant". None will enter Paradise except those who believe in this and obey Allah and His Messenger in all spheres of his/her life.

Therefore, I invite **you**(my dear brother/sister) to the peace and satisfaction of following the will of Allah(God), to the success of this life, to the salvation of hereafter. I invite you to obey God. I invite you to enter Paradise by following the teachings of the last Prophet. I invite you to success and brotherhood of 'faith'. I invite you to submit your self to Allah(God) i.e. to Islam.

Its Allah's extreme mercy that He revealed guidance, sent Messengers, preserved the real faith and made you understand it. *Alhamdulillah(All praise belongs to Allah)!!* Islam is gift from Allah, don't be deprived of it. **Islam is a gift for you, accept it.**

Please share your feedback or query with the author at:
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